



**Special edition:  
City of Tukwila  
Annual Report**

# The Hazelnut

A City of Tukwila publication for our residential and business communities

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

VOLUME 40, NUMBER 1

*Tukwila: The City of Opportunity, the Community of Choice*

## Mayor's Message



I'm pleased to share in this most recent edition of the Hazelnut the City of Tukwila's 2019 accomplishments. I am proud of the work done throughout the City, from the amazing activities and events undertaken by community members to the hard work I see daily among City employees.

In 2020 we will achieve significant milestones as a part of the Public Safety Plan. The new Fire Station 51 at Southcenter Parkway and South 180th Street will open this summer. Later in the year we'll cut the ribbon at the new Justice Center on Tukwila International Boulevard. Both projects were supported by Tukwila voters, and we are thrilled to present these new facilities to the community.

Significant private development is coming into the city. Two new hotels are under construction along with a brand-new assisted-living facility – all in the central business district. Housing in our residential areas has also increased. New business investments are abundant throughout both the Southcenter area and in our neighborhood business districts, like Tukwila International Boulevard (TIB). TIB will see upcoming zoning updates, Council consideration of changes to the roadway, and whether to allow parking on the Boulevard.

2020 will certainly be busy with events, including our very successful *See You in the Park* series this summer. In April we'll celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day at our *Duwamish Alive* event. In May the *Backyard Wildlife Festival* will celebrate its 20th birthday. Other annual events such as *Touch-a-Truck* and *Harvest Festival* will entertain young and old. Browse your copy of the Parks and Recreation activities guide, or find it online at [TukwilaWA.gov](http://TukwilaWA.gov).

Southcenter District growth, events and activities, new justice center and fire stations, – there's a lot to watch for this year. I'm excited for 2020 and hope that you are as well.

*Allan Ekberg*  
Mayor, City of Tukwila

## The 2020 application is now available for Tukwila's City of Opportunity Scholarship

In 2014, the City created a scholarship program for high school students living in Tukwila. Its purpose: providing financial assistance and opportunity to deserving students for continuing their education beyond high school. We are taking applications from those enrolled for undergraduate study in community colleges, colleges, trade schools, and universities.

Selection criteria include, but are not limited to, academic accomplishments, community service, references, financial need, and personal essay. To see the complete list of criteria for eligibility and student requirements, and to download the application, go to [TukwilaWA.gov/scholarship](http://TukwilaWA.gov/scholarship).

The deadline to submit scholarship applications is **March 31, 2020** – no exceptions. For more information, contact Executive Assistant Cheryl Thompson in the Mayor's Office at [Cheryl.Thompson@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Cheryl.Thompson@TukwilaWA.gov) or 206-433-1850.



**A change is coming:  
Tukwila's new plastic  
bag requirements  
go into effect this fall**

Tukwila has joined over 30 other Washington State jurisdictions to adopt a plastic bag ordinance that will help reduce litter and protect our wildlife.

Beginning September 1, 2020, stores in Tukwila will no longer be giving out thin plastic bags at the register, and will be charging a minimum of 8 cents for paper or thick plastic bags.

**Shoppers: Do your part and bring your own bag – start the habit NOW!**

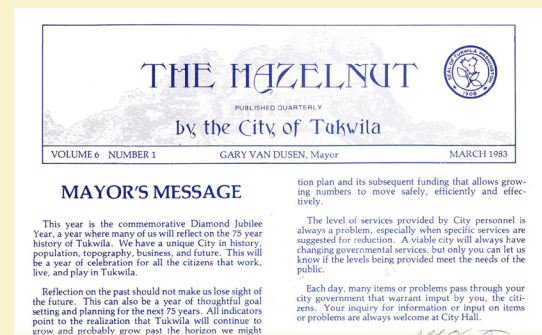
# Mayor's Office

## *Economic Development:*

- Received Governor's Smart Communities Award in category of Smart Partnerships for Tukwila Village.
- Completed final phase land sale for Tukwila Village, and facilitated plans for Food Innovation Network to open mini-food hall in apartment building (under construction).
- Led assistance for businesses relocating for Public Safety Plan.
- Issued City's first multi-family property tax exemption certificate for AirMark Apartments, as incentive for Southcenter District to attract multi-family housing.
- Sponsored Museum of Flight's 50th anniversary celebration of Apollo 11 lunar landing, Seattle Sounders Rave Green Run, two food truck rallies, job fair, and two international rugby matches at Starfire in cooperation with Seawolves, using lodging tax funds.
- Assisted in creation of [KentValleyWA.com](http://KentValleyWA.com), a website focused on attracting aerospace and technology businesses to cities in the Kent Valley, including Tukwila.

## *Records Governance Office/City Clerk*

- **Records:** Continued adding high-retrieval records to online, free access Digital Records Center; filled 155 Public Records Requests by reviewing 125,594 documents; processed 485 contracts/amendments; recorded 173 documents and made available online.
- **Council Meetings:** Support for 45 Council meetings; agenda packets for 115 Council Committee/Council meetings; review/analysis of 49 ordinances/resolutions.
- **Community Service:** Key partners/contributors, raising \$2,000 for SnackPack Program, plus Spirit of Giving, high school summer interns, and meals for Tent City 3.
- **Historical Preservation:** Began first phase of adding the Tukwila community's historical facts, photos and events to Digital Records Center.
- **Central Services:** Issued 203 pet licenses; processed 69 Claims for Damages/Litigation/ Appeals.



# Administrative Services

## *Community Engagement:*

- Participated in/facilitated meetings including Equity and Social Justice Commission, Equity Policy Implementation Committee, Regional Equity and Inclusion group, and presentation on the 2020 Census overview.
- Partnered and coordinated with Human Resources for High School Internship program.
- Outreach and community partnership planning for the upcoming 2020 Census.

## *Human Resources:*

- Successfully negotiated nine labor contracts.
- Completed non-represented employee market study.
- Completed a change in health care broker.
- Completed 101 recruitments.
- Instituted pilot telecommuting policy.
- Created digital accident/injury reporting form.

## *Human Services:*

- Successful grant award (\$107,000) from King County Community Development Block Grant funds for Minor Home Repair consortium (Tukwila, Covington, Des Moines, SeaTac) for 2020.
- In 2019, 21 health/safety related repairs for owner-occupied, low- to moderate-income Tukwila homeowners.
- Provided information and/or assistance to 2,824 Tukwila residents, a 23% increase from 2018.
- Served 224 walk-ins, a 71% increase from 2018.
- Provided 278 hours of case management.
- Participated in/facilitated meetings/trainings including TPD/HS Homeless Task Force, Tukwila School District Providers, Refugee Forum, King County Homelessness Action Committee, International Visitors and SeaTac-Burien-Tukwila Joint Providers.
- Participated in King County Regional RFP review team, made program funding recommendations to King County for 2020 Community Development Block Grant funds.



## City Council

Council President Kathy Hougardy, Councilmembers Robertson, Seal, Quinn, Kruller, McLeod and Idan completed another year of collaborative hard work in 2019. Last year Councilmembers tackled tough policy matters over the course of 21 Regular, 20 Committee of the Whole, 10 Special, and 79 Committee meetings. Councilmembers also represented Tukwila's interests on 27 regional boards.

Highlights from the year include:

- Authorized joining other regional cities and King County in the South King Housing & Homelessness Partnership.
- Authorized traffic cameras to prevent speeding in school zones.
- Established penalties for the crime of exposing minor children to domestic violence.
- Met jointly with the Tukwila School District Board of Directors to discuss issues of mutual importance.
- Restated the commitment to being diverse, tolerant and inclusive, and denouncing language expressing hate.

- Passed legislation that will prevent retailers from giving out single use plastic bags, which harm wildlife, create litter, and clog storm drain and recycling equipment.
- Adopted formal performance policy, standards and objectives for the Tukwila Fire Department.



In December the City of Tukwila bid farewell to Dennis Robertson, who retired from the City Council after 24 years of public service. Dennis served on the City Council from 1988-1995 and again from 2004 to 2019. He will be missed for his thoughtful leadership and diligence on budget and financial matters.

## Municipal Court

- Collaborated with Tukwila TIS department to procure mobile video equipment for improving and expanding remote language interpretation capabilities.
- Participated in planning and design of new Tukwila Justice Center.



- Established structure, processes and partnerships in preparation for the opening of Tukwila Court's Community Connections Center. With its debut at the new Justice Center, this program will involve housing, clothing, food, benefits, transportation assistance, treatment providers, relicensing, VA representatives, and civil legal aid.
- Attended state training with Tukwila Parks and Recreation staff, along with local student and school leadership, to plan for a future student traffic court.
- Presented and hosted numerous civics education sessions and mock trials for several local schools and associations in support of our Court for Kids program.



## Finance

- Continued implementation of Priority-Based Budgeting (PBB) efforts with departments drafting performance measures that will be incorporated into 2021–2022 budget process. PBB aids City in allocating funds to programs determined to be most critical to community.
- Implemented new cashiering system that has chipped credit card reader capabilities. The new cashiering system also has faster transaction processing and better reporting capabilities.
- Successfully transitioned City's business license function to State, enabling businesses operating in multiple cities to obtain a single endorsement rather than obtaining a separate license from each city where they do business.
- Installed computer kiosk at City Hall where walk-in residents and businesses can do City business online. Finance staff assistance is available for utility payments, business license renewal or application, or checking on the status of a permit.
- Issued \$25 million limited tax general obligation bonds and \$41 million in unlimited tax general obligation bonds, to fund construction for Public Safety Plan projects, including the Justice Center, two fire stations, and Public Works shops facility.
- In conjunction with issuing Public Safety Plan bonds, Tukwila received upgrade to its long-term bond rating, increasing from AA to AA+. The increased rating reflects a very good strength in economy, management with effective financial policies and practices, budgetary performance and flexibility, and liquidity.

## Community Development

- Worked with the community members to accomplish making State-mandated updates to Tukwila's shoreline and environmental regulations.
- Organized annual yard sale, and continued our state-funded assistance for residential and business recycling.
- Reviewed and issued 1,799 building, mechanical, electrical and plumbing permits for new or remodeled buildings. The estimated cost of all the construction approved in 2019 was \$248,832,537, up 62% from 2018.
- Provided timely permit review and construction inspections of multiple large private development projects; reviewed public projects including school expansions and Tukwila's Justice Center and Fire Station projects. Maintained 24-hour building inspection turnaround time – 5,391 total inspections.



*Interurban Trail:  
Before*



*Interurban Trail:  
After*

- Opened 278 code enforcement cases and closed 165, improving living conditions (demolition of unfit building, clean-up of property along Interurban Trail, and more). Continued to refine rental housing inspection program.
- Received \$100,000 grant from State to create Housing Action Plan; made new regulations for Accessory Dwelling Units, allowing backyard cottages and offering amnesty program through June of 2019.
- Engaged with Sound Transit on I-405 bus rapid transit improvements to increase potential for transit-oriented development around the Tukwila International Blvd Station. Applied for grants to get approximately \$2 million for improving access to stations in Tukwila.
- Continued transportation outreach with information and incentives to individuals who live or work in Tukwila and South King County, encouraging walking, biking, transit and carpooling.



# Parks and Recreation

- Selected two artists for City's first Artist in Residence program; variety of programs, workshops, events and art engagement activities were offered throughout year.
- Prepared update to Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan – guiding document that outlines Department's key goals and priorities – for adoption in early 2020.
- Completed Older Adult Recreation Services Needs Assessment, used to guide application for King County grant; one-time \$90,000 grant was awarded.
- Foster Golf Links staff focused on creating stronger social media presence; the number of rounds increased to over 50,000 in 2019 for first time since 2015. Significant maintenance projects included irrigation changes and reshaping fairways and bunkers.
- Volunteers and crews removed 22,300 square feet of invasive plants and planted 814 native trees and shrubs as part of Green Tukwila Stewardship Program.



- Popular community connection series See You in the Park – with music, art, food and unique event themes – featured twice as many events as year before.
- Recreation program participants totaled 174,880 sign-ups; facility changes at Community Center included addition of music room and enhancing Fireside Lounge.
- Parks staff developed new composting site at Gully Gardens. Created new plant propagation area for significant cost savings in parks' vegetative materials.
- Developed Tukwila portion of Lake to Sound Trail beginning in June 2019; ribbon cutting is scheduled for February 26, 2020.
- Installed play structures for dogs at Crestview Park and new swings at Cascade View Community Park.



# Technology & Innovation

- Partnered with Telecom and Tukwila Departments to develop a Master License Agreement, and design standards for 5G infrastructure that matched Tukwila's technology vision.
- Implemented online form and signature solution that is being leveraged to process online permit applications.
- Provided project leadership in implementation of new software solutions for performance management, fire staffing, digital signatures, City of Tukwila public Wi-Fi, permitting, and asset management.
- Continued development of accurate Geographic Information System (GIS) as-built drawings of the City's water, sewer, and surface water infrastructure. Enabled staff to log assets into City's GIS database.

- Supported enrichment activities for Foster High School technology interns.
- Provided education and advice to City staff for awareness of cyber-attacks and phishing scandals, to further secure City's computer network and data.
- Modernized City's network infrastructure by replacing aged and out-of-support hardware (i.e., network backbone and remote facility connections).
- Provided guidance in Technology Council and Technology Team to ensure collaboration with staff in assessment of technology needs and purchases.





## Public Works

- Constructed two new pedestrian crosswalks with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons and curb ramps south of South 140th Street and Tukwila International Boulevard, to increase visibility of pedestrians crossing.



- Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program addresses safety concerns in residential areas by introducing treatments to reduce speeds, improve lighting, increase visibility of pedestrians/bicycles and more. Installed new pedestrian crossings, speed cushions, and flashing crosswalk and stop signs plus radar speed signs.

## Police

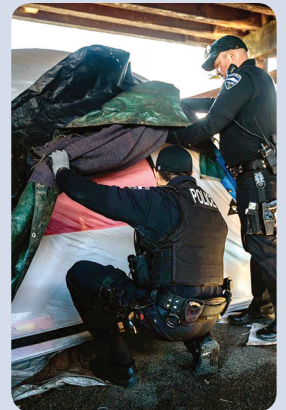
- Worked toward goal of full staffing, including emphasis on retention, leadership development, sensible and affordable incentives, provision of peer support and necessary tools to do jobs safely.
- Held Community Police Academy, open to people who live, work or volunteer in Tukwila. Weekly sessions included presentations and training from subject matter experts in all of the various units in the department.



- Collaborated with community and other city partners to implement crime-fighting technology, such as surveillance cameras in our parks to deter problems, securing enjoyment and safety of community members.



- Continued to work with City resources in regards to homeless outreach. Provided resources to those experiencing homelessness throughout year, while balancing safety and security of our community members. Cleaned up homeless camps.



- Provided high security mailboxes at cost to Tukwila residents who have no neighborhood cluster mailboxes. Responding to a promise to problem-solve and present solutions to the mail theft problem, this mailbox program was a much-appreciated, significant success.
- Continued engagements at schools through assigned School Resource Officers. Held first ever Bulldog Bullyproof Training workshop to provide students with basic non-violent techniques to counter common assaultive behavior displayed by bullies.







- Completed final paving of 53rd Ave South construction project which includes street improvements, sidewalks and in-progress undergrounding. A ribbon cutting was held on August 9 at Joseph Foster Memorial Park.
- Council approved Phase 1 of consolidated Public Works shops plan. SHKS Architects has started design of the tenant improvements to Public Works Fleet and Facilities Building at the former Heiser site.



- Replaced west bridge approach slab on the South 196th/ 200th Street Bridge, using bridge maintenance funding. Bridge required 3-week closure right before 2019 holiday season. Project completed within the tight timeline;
- Identified four alternatives – from minimal changes to lane removal – to create walkable “main street” area for Tukwila International Boulevard; studied potential significant impacts to surrounding neighborhoods

## Fire



- Took delivery of two new engines and a ladder truck.

- Emergency Management has updated the Hazard Mitigation Plan and submitted to King County.
- Department implemented social media outreach.
- Total of 5,979 Incidents (Aid, Fire, HazMat, other)
- The construction of the new Stations 51 and 52 has been going well. Station 51 is scheduled to be complete in June 2020; Station 52 in January of 2021.

### Fire Marshal's Office:

- Plan Reviews –
 

Construction permits (development, Public Works, mechanical, and single-family residential):	427
Construction permit, fire protection:	265
Various permit types: Design review, land, SEPA, planned residential, and wireless facility:	113
Special Event Permits Reviewed:	22
- Inspections –
 

Construction permits (development, Public Works, mechanical, and single-family residential):	258
Construction permit, fire protection:	352
- Fire investigator requests: 54



## THE HAZELNUT

City of Tukwila  
6200 Southcenter Blvd.  
Tukwila, WA 98188

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## Council Corner

by De'Sean Quinn,  
2020 Council President

**Becoming a Council member  
means you're ready to work  
for your community**



It's an honor to serve as Council President, and I look forward to the important work of the year ahead. I am very glad to welcome Cynthia Delostrinos Johnson to the City Council. When I say work, I mean it – we have a lot in store. This is the year we will deliberate and adopt the City's budget for 2021–2022. In the City of Tukwila, the Council uses the Priority-Based Budgeting process. It helps us identify the City services that offer the highest value, and those that may not be as useful. It's methodical and transparent, and ensures that the City's focus is on what's most important to the community we serve. The Biennial Budget process, is a significant undertaking, requiring special, engaged work sessions in addition to our usual meetings.

One area of focus is empowering Councilmembers to effectively contribute to the City through their work in the four standing committees. Policy decisions made as a Council are first discussed in the applicable committees, requiring hard work, dedication and preparation. This year the Council adopted a new committee structure:

- Transportation & Infrastructure – *Cynthia Delostrinos Johnson, Chair; Verna Seal, Kate Kruller*
- Planning & Economic Development – *Thomas McLeod, Chair; Kathy Hougardy, Zak Idan*
- Community Services & Safety – *Kate Kruller, Chair; Thomas McLeod, Cynthia Delostrinos Johnson*
- Finance – *Verna Seal, Chair; Kathy Hougardy, Zak Idan*

Finally, I would like to announce that the City Council plans to engage further with the community in the form of Town Hall meetings. These will provide us with a great opportunity to hear from you on the issues we all face. Stay tuned for details as we firm up the schedule.

For more information about our work, please visit **[TukwilaWA.gov/council](http://TukwilaWA.gov/council)**, or feel free to contact any Councilmember – you can find our phone numbers right below this article.

### TUKWILA CITY HALL

6200 Southcenter Boulevard  
Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30AM–5:00PM  
Telephone: 206-433-1800  
Fax number: 206-433-1833  
E-mail: [Tukwila@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Tukwila@TukwilaWA.gov)  
Website: [TukwilaWA.gov](http://TukwilaWA.gov)

**MAYOR** Allan Ekberg.. 206-433-1850

#### Mayor's Office

Administration Offices..... 206-433-1850  
David Cline, *City Administrator*....206-433-1851  
Economic Development..... 206-433-1832  
Municipal Court..... 206-433-1840

#### Administrative Services

Rachel Bianchi, *Dep. City Adm*.... 206-454-7566  
City Clerk's Office..... 206-433-1800  
Human Resources – Personnel...206-433-1831  
City Job Line..... 206-433-1828  
Human Services.....206-433-7181  
Community Engagement..... 206-454-7564

#### Community Development Dept.

Jack Pace, *Director*.....206-431-3670  
Code Enforcement.....206-431-3682

#### Finance Department

Vicky Carlsen, *Director*..... 206-433-1835

#### Fire Department

Jay Wittwer, *Chief*.....206-575-4404  
Jason Konieczka, *Emerg Mgmt* ...206-971-8740

#### Parks/Recreation Department

Rick Still, *Director*..... 206-767-2342

#### Police Department

Bruce Linton, *Chief*.....206-433-7175

#### Public Works Department

Henry Hash, *Director*..... 206-433-0179

#### Technology Services Department

Joseph Todd, *Director*..... 206-454-7575

**Emergency – Fire, Police** ..... **911**

### TUKWILA COMMUNITY CENTER

12424 - 42nd Avenue South  
Recreation Division.....206-768-2822  
Senior Center/Services.....206-767-2323

### FOSTER GOLF LINKS

13500 Interurban Avenue South  
Pro Shop.....206-242-4221

### TUKWILA CITY COUNCIL

De'Sean Quinn, *President* .....206-331-5939  
*[Desean.Quinn@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Desean.Quinn@TukwilaWA.gov)*  
Kathy Hougardy ..... 206-571-0007  
*[Kathy.Hougardy@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Kathy.Hougardy@TukwilaWA.gov)*  
Verna Seal..... 206-492-4819  
*[Verna.Seal@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Verna.Seal@TukwilaWA.gov)*  
Kate Kruller..... 206-678-7885  
*[Kate.Kruller@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Kate.Kruller@TukwilaWA.gov)*  
Thomas McLeod..... 206-492-4821  
*[Thomas.Mcleod@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Thomas.Mcleod@TukwilaWA.gov)*  
Zak Idan..... 206-889-0743  
*[Zak.Idan@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Zak.Idan@TukwilaWA.gov)*  
Cynthia Delostrinos Johnson..... 206-595-5469  
*[C.DelostrinosJohnson@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:C.DelostrinosJohnson@TukwilaWA.gov)*  
To email the entire Council at once:  
*[CityCouncil@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:CityCouncil@TukwilaWA.gov)*  
Laurel Humphrey, *Analyst* ..... 206-433-8993

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

7:00PM in Council Chambers

Regular Meetings ..... 1st/3rd Mondays  
Committee of the Whole..... 2nd/4th Mondays

The Hazelnut newsletter is published  
six times a year by the City of Tukwila